

Cosmeceutical

Cosmeceuticals are the fusion of cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. “Cosmeceuticals will contain active ingredients that are known to be beneficial to humans in some way. For example, vitamin C is a known antioxidant and when this is added to a lotion or cream the product is considered a cosmeceutical.” When we read a product and label and see things like botanical and marine extracts, vitamins, or peptides, it probably could be considered a cosmeceutical.

If claims are being made (such as “reduces wrinkles” “eliminates acne”, many times these products have undergone a significant amount of testing to support these claims, from consumer and controlled laboratory tests to stability and preservative efficacy tests. Cosmeceuticals have undoubtedly taken over the personal care industry across the globe. Despite the prevalent confusion about its definition and scope, it would not be an exaggeration to state that almost 30% to 40% of any dermatologist’ prescription count across the world consists of a cosmeceutical. The term was coined in 1984 by Dr. Albert Kligman of the University of Pennsylvania describing a hybrid category of products mid-way on the spectrum of ‘cosme’tics and pharma’ ceutical.

Common domains of usage of cosmeceuticals

Anti-aging in general

Treatment of photomelanosis and photo tanning

Treatment of pigmentation-related disorders like melasma or freckles

Anti-inflammatory

Fat loss

Hair growth

Hair fall prevention

Maintenance of skin tone and clarity of complexion